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But he won the unique distinction of putting prominently and clearly forward the Golden Rule as the principle which should guide the nation and its citizens in all their relations with other peoples. He could not, of course, in all matters, carry out this great Christian rule of conduct, but he did his best in that direction, and he nailed the rule up in the State Department to remain there.

It is known to many that Mr. Hay was very desirous to push the organization of arbitration among the nations as fast and as far as possible. He negotiated in two months no less than eleven treaties with other governments, ten of which were sent to the Senate. If obstacles to their completion had not arisen, he would probably before his death have had our country bound by treaty to arbitrate its differences with all the important powers of the world. It is known by his friends that he suffered keenly from the criticisms and misinterpretations which befell him in connection with these treaties. The taunt that he was trying to have the State Department usurp an authority not belonging to it fell like a powerful battle axe upon him. To one of his friends he wrote, in substance: "Heaven knows that I had only a sincere desire to promote a little further the establishment and maintenance of peace on earth."

It looks as if Mr. Hay could be poorly spared from world-politics at the present time, when so much of ambition, greed and injustice is everywhere struggling for the mastery; but perhaps what he did and the high example of a brave and noble disinterestedness which he gave the world may make him dead just as powerful for promoting righteousness and peace as if he had remained alive.

The Chinese Boycott.

The boycott of American goods in China is evidently a most serious affair, and it will take the wisest and most patient statesmanship at Washington to prevent it from having very serious results in the relations of the two countries. It went into effect on the 19th of July, as was learned at the State Department from a despatch sent by Consul-General Rogers at Shanghai. A circular, a copy of which was received at Washington was issued by a literary society in Shanghai and distributed through the empire asking the natives to join in the boycott of American products. Though every effort was made by the American officials in China and by the Chinese government itself, the appeal of the circular was responded to by the natives in an eager and excited way.

The immediate cause of the boycott was of course the recent severe and inhuman treatment by American immigration officials of a Chinaman returning to this country from China, but who was a native citi-

zen of the United States, and who had simply gone over on a visit. The story of this occurrence got quickly back to China, and along with it all sorts of rumors got into circulation of maltreatment of Chinamen in this country. These stories, as, for instance, of the beheading of two hundred coolies in America, were naturally believed by the ignorant Chinese.

The American diplomats and consuls in China are doing all in their power to counteract these false stories, though they find the task no easy one. The Chinese authorities also are sincerely, it is believed, coöperating with them, but it is not likely that the movement of the populace, under the instigation of intelligent Chinese who wish to see their country no longer in bondage to foreign powers, can be counteracted before it has done immense damage to American trade.

The United States authorities at Washington profess to be amazed at the persistence of the situation. The highly commendable action of President Roosevelt in censuring the immigration official referred to above, and in ordering that hereafter the Chinese exclusion law be interpreted in a more liberal and generous way, they think ought to have relieved the trouble at once. Do they really think so?

No one who has carefully considered, from the point of view of justice and fairness and of the most elemental morality, the subject of our exclusion of Chinese laborers as a class and the indignities put upon those of other classes, is the least surprised at the boycott. Nor will he be surprised if it becomes permanent, and continues as long as present conditions last. The trouble is what might have been expected, as every bad policy is sure in time to let fall its evil fruit. The real matter of wonder is that the Chinese government has not retaliated long ago, and put in force a counter exclusion measure. Only two things have prevented this — the eminent service done for the empire by our State Department in recent years and the general weakness of China. But now that she is coming to a consciousness of herself, and begins to understand that the West may after all be just as weak and helpless as the East, the fruits of our quarter of a century of dishonor towards her are sure to be gathered with painful rapidity, if we do not repent of our wickedness and bring forth fruit meet for repentance. The boycott in the hands of the Chinese masses may prove to be more potent than armies and navies, and it is an instrument against which the biggest "expeditions" would be perfectly helpless.

The only effective and speedy way — if there is any speedy way — to relieve the situation and create popular confidence in our country among the Chinese is our return to the ways of simple justice. The Chinese exclusion law, which has been a disgrace to the nation ever since its first enactment, ought to be forthwith expunged from the statute book, as soon as Congress reassembles, and the Chinamen put upon

the same basis of immigration as all other peoples. There has never been any real ground for treating them differently from other races. The hue and cry of being overrun by the vast hordes of them, and similar and exactly contrary pleas, for example, that they will not stay and become a part of us, have all been time and again shown to be essentially groundless and some of them extremely ridiculous. The real cause of our extraordinary conduct toward them has been race prejudice and race hatred and contempt. It will be a curious comment upon our national intelligence and character if the boycott against our goods and products succeeds in driving into us the simple lesson of justice and friendly conduct towards a foreign people which reason and the great principles of our national life have so far failed to teach us. It will be a new illustration of the almightiness of the dollar.

We have been boasting a good deal recently of how good and great we have shown ourselves toward China in the crisis brought on by the Russo-Japanese war. We now are given an opportunity to show to the world, by repealing the scandalous Chinese exclusion law, which we shall anyway probably never be able to get renewed under the sanctimonious cover of a treaty, that we have the real spirit of goodness and greatness in us. Let us for once "dare to be great." It will be worth infinitely more to us than any amount of talking.

The Japanese House Tax Case.

The arbitrators chosen from the Hague Court to settle the so-called Japanese House Tax Case between Japan on the one side and Great Britain, France and Germany on the other, rendered their decision on the 22d of May last. So little attention, however, was given to the subject by the Associated Press that very few people, in this country at any rate, know that the award has been given.

This was actually the second controversy to be carried to the Hague Court, the protocols of submission having been signed as long ago as the 28th of August, 1902. The case was therefore under consideration for nearly three years. The dispute arose over the attempt of the Japanese officials to tax improvements on lands held by foreigners under perpetual lease. In the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation of April 4, 1896, between Japan and Germany, in that of August 4, 1896, between Japan and France, and in that of July 16, 1894, between Japan and Great Britain, it had been stipulated that when certain "foreign quarters shall have been incorporated in the respective communes of Japan, existing leases in perpetuity under which property is now held in the said settlements shall be confirmed, and no conditions whatsoever other than those contained in such existing leases shall be imposed in respect of such property."

The Japanese government contended that this stipulation referred only to the land, not to buildings erected thereon; the three European governments held, on the contrary, that all improvements on the lands were exempt, under the terms of the treaties, from taxation. The question actually submitted to the Hague Court was therefore that of the proper interpretation of the language of this section of the treaties.

For the constitution of the tribunal to determine the controversy, Japan named from the Hague Court Mr. Itchiro Motono, her Minister to France, and the three European governments selected (by lot) Professor Louis Renault, of the Law Faculty of Paris. These two chose Mr. Gregers Gram, former State Minister of Norway, as umpire.

The decision of the tribunal was against the contention of Japan, and was as follows:

"The provisions of the treaties and other engagements mentioned in the arbitration protocols exempt not only the lands held in virtue of the perpetual leases granted by the Japanese government or in its name, but they exempt the lands and the buildings of every kind built or which may hereafter be built upon these lands, from all imports, taxes, burdens, contributions or conditions of whatever kind other than those expressly stipulated in the treaties in question."

The decision was rendered by a majority of the tribunal, Mr. Gram, the umpire, and Professor Renault representing the three European powers. Mr. Motono, following the privilege granted him by Article 52 of the Hague Convention, recorded his "absolute disagreement with the majority of the tribunal."

This case cannot be considered, we suppose, one of the greatest importance, but its settlement by the Hague Court strengthens the prestige of the great tribunal. The decision, so far as it has a bearing upon the general question of the taxation of improvements upon lands leased in perpetuity from governments, will go far towards establishing as a principle in international law the position taken by the arbitrators. But the chief significance of the case as a whole is that it brought Great Britain, Germany and France together as friends before a tribunal where questions are not determined by the brute might of great armies and big navies, but by the demands of reason and justice. Friendship in small ways naturally leads to friendship in larger ways, and France and Germany will prove to be no exception to the rule.

On account of the editor's absence in Europe attending the Lucerne Peace Congress and other meetings, there will be no issue of the Advocate of Peace in September. The October number will contain full accounts of the European meetings.